

NAVAL BATTALION FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

JANUARY 22, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HILBORN, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3355.]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3355) to provide for organizing a naval battalion in the District of Columbia, having examined the same, make the following report:

A bill of the same character and in the same language was introduced in the House (H. R. 10066) and referred to this committee, and after consideration was returned to the House with a favorable report (No. 2565).

Your committee therefore beg leave to renew the recommendations contained in same report and to accept said report heretofore made upon the House bill as their report upon the Senate bill now under consideration.

[House Report No. 2565, Fifty-fourth Congress, second session.]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9567) to provide for organizing a naval reserve battalion in the District of Columbia, having examined the same, make the following report:

The bill was referred to the Secretary of the Navy for his views, which consist in the following:

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., January 2, 1897.

SIR: Referring to the bill (H. R. 9567) providing for the formation of a naval reserve battalion in the District of Columbia, returned to the Department requesting it to suggest such amendments as in its opinion would be appropriate, the Department recommends as follows:

In the title strike out the word "reserve."

Section 1, line 6, strike out the word "reserve."

A naval militia and a naval reserve are very different organizations, and the proposed functions of this battalion belong entirely to the militia, not to the reserve.

Sections 4, 5, and 6 strike out entirely.

This organization would then, as far as the Navy Department is concerned, have the same status as other existing similar bodies. The reasons for this were fully given in the Department's last letter on this subject.

Section 7, line 4, strike out the word "reserve," for reasons above given.

Should these amendments be adopted the Navy Department recommends that the bill be favorably reported.

Very respectfully,

W. MCADOO, *Assistant Secretary.*

HON. JOHN B. ROBINSON,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

The committee therefore adopt the suggestions of the Secretary of the Navy, and recommend the passage of the accompanying bill as a substitute for H. R. 9567.

